



# Volcano Evacuation Routes

## What You Need to Know



### What do the signs mean?

Volcano evacuation route signs are located throughout the city of Auburn to direct you to the quickest and safest routes to travel to high ground in the event of an impending flood or volcanic mudflow.

### What is the Threat?

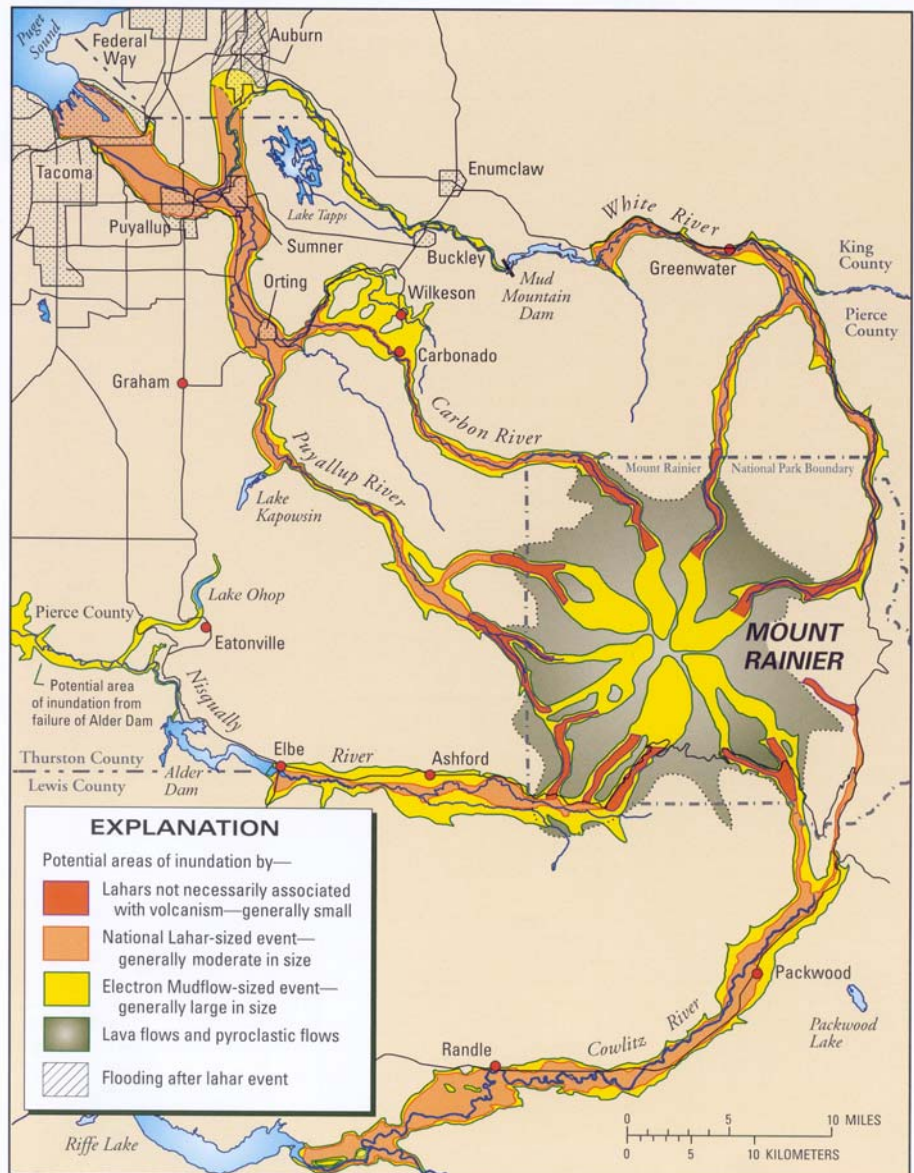
According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Mount Rainier is an active volcano that is currently at rest between eruptions. Its next eruption might produce volcanic ash, lava flows, or pyroclastic flows (hot lava fragments and gas). Pyroclastic flows can rapidly melt snow and ice, producing **lahars** (volcanic mudflows) that travel down valleys beyond the base of the volcano. Lahars can also be caused by large landslides on the mountain. Lahars look and behave like flowing concrete, at times traveling 50 miles per hour.

At Mount Rainier, lahars are a greater hazard than other volcanic products such as lava and poisonous gases popularized by TV and film. The map shows areas that could be affected if events similar in size to those of the past occurred today. Lahar hazard is not equal in all valleys. The Puyallup valley is the most susceptible to lahars caused by large landslides or a flank collapse on the volcano. As you can see on the map, the city of Auburn is located on the northern-most fringe of the inundation area, and may be affected by a lahar, although the impact will be much less than what is expected in the Orting and Puyallup areas.

### How Much Time Do I Have to Evacuate?

According to estimates from the USGS, Auburn residents have approximately 1.6 hours from the first warning to evacuate in the event of a severe lahar. The short time period may necessitate walking to higher ground, as roads may become blocked by traffic. You can familiarize yourself with the evacuation routes near your home and workplace by checking the reverse side of this page.

Questions? Contact the city of Auburn at (253) 876-1925



**Volcano Evacuation Routes:** Below are identified evacuation routes and gathering places to use in case of Lahar warning. Roads will be identified with blue “Volcano Evacuation Route” signs and the objective is to get to higher ground. Familiarize yourself with the routes near your home and/or workplace.

